



CITY OF LODI

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: After School Playground Fees
MEETING DATE: June 4, 1997
PREPARED BY: Charlene Lange, Community Center Director

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the City Council review options for After School Playground care at five sites and give staff direction as to what level of service the City should provide.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Since 1940 the City of Lodi has provided summer playground programs at a low or no cost fee, staffed by high school or college age students. The programs have evolved over time with a significant growth spurt when Lodi Unified Schools moved into the year-round school system.

In 1993 the After School Program migrated to indoor space at the school sites on rainy and hot days. Indoor space is rotated at each school site depending on the availability. Principals are reluctant to assign one room to the program since they often are in need of that space for their own uses and programs after hours.

The school district has been very generous in providing the school facilities at no cost to the City and has also underwritten the expense of janitorial services and restroom supplies. The program does experience some problems with security because we have no secured facility that is completely off limits to the public. The playgrounds present the biggest problem since the outside space is considered "public" after the last school bell rings.

The After School Program does provide care for children after school at a very reasonable cost. We have consistently added 'safety features', including cell phones and staff training in an attempt to maintain a safe environment.

There are other after-school programs available in the area. However, in comparison to other area after school care situations, the City offers an on-site program at a fraction of the private program cost.

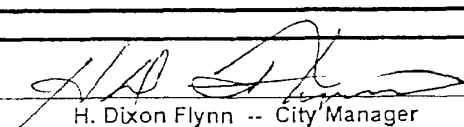
FUNDING:

None.


Charlene J. Lange
Community Center Director

CJL/tv

APPROVED: _____


H. Dixon Flynn -- City Manager

AFTER SCHOOL PLAYGROUND HISTORY

1940-1992	1990	1993	1995-Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Summer Playground Program, Monday-Friday ♦ Free to kids ♦ Drop-in only ♦ Fee only for special arts projects ♦ Schools helped with buses for weekly Lodi Lake field trips ♦ Staffed by high school and college students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Schools move to Concept 6 scheduling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Playground program expands to year 'round ♦ Five school sites ♦ Operate, Monday-Friday ♦ 2:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. ♦ Tuition charged \$1.00 per day ♦ Sold snack to kids (dismal failure) ♦ Staff remains same ♦ Added annual registration fee of \$10.00; asked for emergency phone numbers ♦ Schools subsidizing indoor room, janitorial costs and supplies ♦ Public access on site an increasing problem and concern 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Program cost increases to \$2.00 per day with addition of snack ♦ Day lengthened 45 minutes to 6:00 p.m. ♦ All staff now fingerprinted ♦ Cellular phones added for emergencies ♦ Staff certified in CPR and first aid techniques ♦ Supplemented staff training ♦ Signing/Sign out implemented ♦ Cost recover only 70% ♦ Schools subsidizing indoor room, janitorial costs and supplies ♦ Public access on site an increasing problem and concern ♦ Bumped registration fee to \$15.00

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM OPTIONS

OPTION 1 Traditional Recreation Program	OPTION 2 After School - No Snack	OPTION 3 After School with Snack	OPTION 4 Cancel & Refer to Private Uses
♦ Five city sites	♦ Five city school sites	♦ Five city sites	♦ Lodi Boys & Girls Club (\$10 annual membership fee, otherwise free after school care)
♦ Afternoons 3p.m.-5 p.m.	♦ Afternoons 2:45 p.m. - 6 p.m.	♦ Afternoons 2:45 p.m. - 6 p.m.	
♦ Playground Games	♦ Games & homework time	♦ Games & homework time	♦ Creative Kids Preschool and Day Care (\$50.00/week before & after care, transportation)
♦ \$1.00/day; \$5.00/week No reduced sibling rate	♦ \$2.50/ day; \$12.50/ week No sibling rate	♦ \$3.00/day; \$15.00/week No sibling rate	
♦ Informal drop-in	♦ Maximum 40 kids	♦ Maximum 40 kids	♦ Edu-Camp Preschool (\$3.50/hour)
	♦ No guarantee on located space	♦ No guarantee on located space	
	♦ No Lake trips	♦ No Lake trips	♦ La Petite Academy (\$67.00/week before & after care, transportation)
♦ No limit on size, outdoor only	♦ 1/20 ratio	♦ 1/20 ratio	♦ Latchkey-Children's Center (Sliding scale, federally funded, Transportation)
			Reference: Family Resource & Referral Center

Memo

RECEIVED

MAY 21 AM 10:05

ANDREW W. PEARCE
CITY CLERK
CITY OF LODI

To: Charlene Lange
From: Sue Ducato
CC: Lisa Rudloff
Lodi City Council Members
Date: May 18, 1997
Re: After School Program

What is going on?

I am writing to you because I am an extremely concerned and upset parent. I read in Saturday's Lodi News Sentinel that you are reviewing the After School Program to determine what should be done with it.

Your ideas range from leaving the After School Program as it is, to canceling the program completely. I do not recall being asked what I, as a parent of a child that has attended the After School Program for four years, would like to see changed or remain the same. From the article in the paper, it doesn't seem to matter what I think or what my child thinks. It seems that you alone are making that decision.

What are our options?

You also stated that "there are a number of child care opportunities for children 6 to 12 in Lodi." I would like for you to list those child care opportunities for me. I only know of one other after school care - the Boys and Girls Club. I am sure there are many private homes that "baby-sit", but I do not want that for my daughter.

What I think?

I feel you should survey the parents and the children that are enrolled in the program. What has caused you to consider closing the After School Program? I know of nothing wrong with the program.

- My daughter completes her homework and plays with her friends.
- She has the opportunity to be with children from other grades and tracks.
- I don't have to worry about transportation from school to day care.
- The staff is great, they help her with her homework and they teach good communication skills.

I look forward to the opportunity to meet with you to further discuss this issue. I feel I am not alone in my thinking and believe many other parents would like to voice their opinions also.

Thank you for your time,



Sue Ducato

Please note - I do not mind an increase in monthly fees,
I would gladly pay twice as much. I do
mind the program going away! Sue